

**REPLACEMENT CLAIMS**

1. (amended) an adjustable clip assembly, comprising:

10 first and second, opposing jaw portions, said jaw portions having first ends that are joined together and second ends that are spread apart so as to define a receiving area said jaw portions having first and second contoured surfaces for engaging sheet material of a tarp positioned within said receiving area, said contoured surfaces comprising:

A1 a plurality of transverse inter-fitting ridges formed on said first and second jaw portions, said inter-fitting ridges having rounded contours so as to avoid damaging said sheet material of said tarp; and

15 a finger-operable adjustment screw interconnecting said first and second jaw portions, for adjustably urging said jaw portions into gripping engagement with an article positioned within said receiving area.

A2 15. (amended) The clip assembly of claim 1, wherein said contoured surfaces further

20 comprise:

surface texturing formed on at least one of said ridges for gripping said sheet material of a tarp.

## ADDED CLAIMS

21. (new) an adjustable clip assembly, comprising:

first and second, opposing jaw portions, said jaw portions having first ends that are joined together and second ends that are spread apart so as to define a receiving area, said jaw portions having first and second contoured surfaces for engaging sheet material of a tarp positioned within said receiving area, said contoured surfaces comprising:

a plurality of transverse, inter-fitting ridges formed on said first and second jaw portions, surface texturing being formed on at least one of said ridges for gripping said sheet material of a tarp; and

15 a finger-operable adjustment screw interconnecting said first and second jaw portions, for adjustably urging said jaw portions into gripping engagement with an article positioned within said receiving area.

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22. (new) The clip assembly of claim 21, wherein said surface texturing comprises:

20 a multiplicity of small, raised protrusions forming a grainy surface for engaging said sheet material of a tarp.

23. (new) An adjustable clip assembly, comprising:

first and second jaw portions, said jaw portions having first ends that are joined together and second ends that are spread apart so as to define a receiving area;

a live hinge connecting said first ends of said jaw portions at a common base, said jaw portions and said live hinge being formed as a unitarily molded structure of a substantially rigid, resiliently flexible material ;

first and second, raised engagement surfaces formed on said second ends of said jaw portions on opposite sides of said receiving area;

a finger-operable adjustment screw interconnecting said first and second jaw portions at mid-areas intermediate said engagement surfaces and said live hinge, for adjustably urging said engagement surfaces on said jaw portions into gripping engagement with an article positioned within said receiving area; and

at least one stop member positioned between said jaw portions proximate said adjustment screw so as to prevent said mid-areas of said jaw portions from collapsing towards one another beyond a predetermined minimum spacing as said adjustment screw is tightened.

*X3*  
24. (new) The adjustable clip assembly of claim 23 wherein said at least one stop member comprises:

a raised projection formed on said adjustment a shaft portion of said screw for bearing against an inner surface of said mid-area of at least one of said jaw portions so as to limit of said jaw portion as said adjustment screw is tightened.

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